

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claim rejections set forth in the Office Action dated March 8, 2007.

Summary

Claim 1 is currently amended and claims 2 – 8 and 25 – 29 are cancelled. Claims 30 – 41 are added. No new matter has been added as a result. Therefore, claims 1, 9 – 10 and 30 – 42 are currently pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4 – 8 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims Rejections

Claims 1, 9, 10, and 25 – 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Shiraishi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,690,551). Claims 2 to 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § being unpatentable over Shiraishi et al. in view of Farrow et al. (U.S. 6,088,204) and/or Yanagisawa et al. (U.S. 6,181,517).

Claim 1 was amended to incorporate the features recited in claim 4. The Examiner previously indicated that claim 4 is allowable over the cited references (Office Action dated March 8, 2007; page 3). Therefore, claim 1 is allowable over the cited reasons for at least the same reasons that claim 4 is allowable over the cited references. Dependent claims 9 – 10 depend from allowable claim 1, so are allowable for at least this reason.

New Claims

Claim 30 incorporates the features recited in claim 5. The Examiner previously indicated that claim 5 is allowable over the cited references (Office Action dated March 8, 2007; page 3). Therefore, claim 30 is allowable over the cited references for at least the same reasons that claim 5 is allowable over the cited references.

Dependent claims 31 – 32 depend from allowable claim 30, so are allowable for at least this reason.

Claim 33 incorporates the features recited in claim 6. The Examiner previously indicated that claim 6 is allowable over the cited references (Office Action dated March 8, 2007; page 3). Therefore, claim 33 is allowable over the cited references for at least the same reasons that claim 6 is allowable over the cited references. Dependent claims 34 – 35 depend from allowable claim 33, so are allowable for at least this reason.

Claim 36 incorporates the features recited in claim 7. The Examiner previously indicated that claim 7 is allowable over the cited references (Office Action dated March 8, 2007; page 3). Therefore, claim 36 is allowable over the cited references for at least the same reasons that claim 7 is allowable over the cited references. Dependent claims 37 – 38 depend from allowable claim 36, so are allowable for at least this reason.

Claim 39 incorporates the features recited in claim 8. The Examiner previously indicated that claim 8 is allowable over the cited references (Office Action dated March 8, 2007; page 3). Therefore, claim 39 is allowable over the cited references for at least the same reasons that claim 8 is allowable over the cited references. Dependent claims 40 – 41 depend from allowable claim 39, so are allowable for at least this reason.

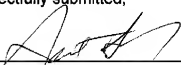
Claim 42 recites, *inter alia*, the head-holding substrate comprises a fired glass-ceramic compact and all surfaces of the substrate are fired. Applicants maintain that the term “fired” provides a structural difference that is not disclosed in the cited references. Applicants respectfully submit an article that supports this argument. The article is titled: *Ceramic and Glass-Ceramic Packaging in the 1990's*. The article is attached as Appendix A. Applicants respectfully submit that at least Table IV and Fig. 23 of the article teach structural difference between fired and non-fired glass-ceramics. The cited references fail to teach a fired glass-ceramic compact. Therefore, claim 42 is allowable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons presented above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned in the event that a telephone interview would expedite consideration of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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